



MAG CWMD Global Update December 2009



A member of the MAG Physical Security team secures the window of Muyinga's police station, Police Region East



CWMD team preparing for demolition of hazardous items in Chamchamal, Sulimaniyah

MAG and CWMD – MAG uses the term Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal (CWMD) to more accurately reflect the approach that MAG takes with regard to dealing with the range of munitions it encounters in support of stockpile management, as in many of its projects items outside of the SALW definition are dealt with, such as aircraft bombs, large calibre artillery, mortar ammunition and rockets. The term also reflects the different roles that MAG takes on within this sector, from direct clearance activities and training to Physical Security and Stockpile Management.

MAG is currently undertaking CWMD projects in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Iraq, Republic of Congo (RoC), Rwanda, Somalia and Sudan.

Burundi

MAG Burundi started in 2007 with a programme to support the government of Burundi in **reducing the threat of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and unsecured stockpiles**. MAG is currently offering technical support to the Weapons Destruction Workshop and supporting the Burundian Government in implementing the Nairobi Protocol, Articles 6, 7 and 8.

Implementation of the comprehensive Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) project with the PNB continued with funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The MAG-PNB mobile team collected surplus and obsolete PNB-owned SALW in Kirundo province. The Physical Security team improved security in **11 PNB armouries** thus completing work in Police Region North, with the exception of one police station which is still under construction.

Preparation for the Swiss-funded survey of Force de Defense Nationale (FDN) SALW is ongoing. This survey, which will take place from January to June 2010, is the first phase of a comprehensive PSSM project with the FDN in the framework of the Nairobi Protocol.

For more information on this or any of MAG's programmes across the world, please visit www.maginternational.org

Summary of outputs:

- Collection of **72 weapons, 190 magazines, 616 ammunition and 1,850 SAA** from PNB stocks by the MAG-PNB mobile team;
- Collection of **322 weapons, 183 magazines, 2,511 ammunition and 8,705 SAA** handed-over by the population to the CDCPA by the MAG-PNB mobile team;
- Destruction of **2,443 ammunition** by the MAG-PNB mobile team;
- Improvement to the physical security of **11 PNB armouries** by the MAG physical security team.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

MAG DRC launched a nationwide CWMD programme in September 2006 and in May 2007 received written authorisation from the Ministry of Defence to **destroy surplus military stocks** in all Military Regions. Also in May 2007, a **destruction centre** was established by MAG at the Central Logistics Base in Kinshasa. In September 2008 MAG received written authorisation from the Ministry of the Interior (extended in April 2009) to commence **CWMD activities with the Congolese National Police**. MAG DRC is currently operating two mobile CWMD teams and the destruction team based at the Logistics Central Base under funding from the US Department of State Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement.

The first CWMD Team completed its deployment in Mbakana (Bas Congo province) at the beginning of December where they destroyed **8.3 tons and 200,474 items** of potentially dangerous ammunition, including **8 antipersonnel mines**, received from the FARDC (Congolese army). Some of these items had originally been collected by the local NGO PAREC as part of a civilian disarmament project before being handed over to the FARDC, and then to MAG. Meanwhile the second CWMD Team continued collecting arms and ammunition in South Kivu.

Iraq

Iraq has been subjected to protracted and intense conflict for over 25 years and is one of the countries most affected by explosive CW. The conflict in 2003 led to further, extensive CW contamination and resulted in large numbers of unsecured and abandoned stockpiles and caches of SALW. MAG Iraq has eight SALW teams that deploy from the programme's 4 operational bases to **conduct Small Arms and Light Weapons destruction tasks** in Erbil, Sulaimaniyah, Dahuk, Mosul and Kirkuk governorates.

During December, 6 CWD response teams continued operations deploying to reported stockpiles of CW. Teams deployed 60 times from the programme's 3 operation bases to 56 different villages completing 193 emergency conventional weapons destruction tasks in Erbil, Sulimaniyah, Dahuk, Mosul and Kirkuk governorates. During this month **18,484 CW** were safely destroyed. Items included **1,048 70mm PG, 522 anti-personnel landmines, 1,743 fuses, 1,614 mortars, 13,016 projectiles and 253 small arms ammunitions** as well as other types of unexploded ordnance. During December teams destroyed more than **79 stockpiles**.

The team in Chamchamal deployed to Moffar village completing **16 tasks** to safely remove and destroy **14,468 items of CW**. Items were posing a significant threat to the local population. Teams also completed 5 tasks destroying **333 hazardous items** in Basne village in Sharbazher, Sulimaniyah.

The CW awareness program, delivered by dedicated CL teams, continued during December. The program aims to warn children and other vulnerable groups about the dangers of CW. A children's activity book, as well as posters and leaflets, were specially designed to support the project. Teams conducted **5 awareness sessions to 76 individuals** in 4 different villages of Sulimaniyah governorate and one village of Kirkuk governorate, distributing **81 booklets** in support of their activities.

RECSA (Great Lakes region and Horn of Africa)

The project with RECSA has now come to an end and MAG is **actively seeking funding** from interested donors to be able to continue with the technical support not only to RECSA member states but to Africa in general.

Republic of Congo (RoC)

As of September 2008, with the confirmation of funding from CPP and WRA, the Mines Advisory Group has resumed its formal partnership with the Ministry of Defence in the Republic of Congo. MAG is providing technical support to the Forces Armées Congolaises (FAC) to **safely manage and dispose of conventional weapons**.

Throughout December, MAG has continued Conventional Weapons Management and Disposal (CWMD) activities in the Republic of Congo. MAG has supported the FAC in the destruction of weapons and ammunition in the northern town of Ouesso where 2 demolitions took place. In those, MAG destroyed **46,079 items, weighing 3,052kg including 44,588 SAA**, all from the military zone's depot.

Items destroyed included:

10 x 75mm shell explosive	287 x igniter MUV 2
126 x POMZ 2 anti personnel mine	220 x igniters detonator mine
1 x rifle grenade (VOG 25)	646 x detonator
10 x hand grenade (F1, RGD5)	118 x propellant charge
47 x PG7 anti tank rockets	44588 x SAA
26 x M6 fuse	

The team also carried out Casevac training at the demolition site.

Rwanda

MAG started its CWMD activities in Rwanda in November 2008. MAG is providing **technical assistance and training** to the Rwanda Defense Forces (RDF) in basic stockpile management and the destruction of surplus SALW and munitions. MAG established a central weapons destruction workshop at Kanombe near Kigali and **trained two RDF teams** in weapons recognition and weapons cutting. A central demolition site for the destruction of munitions has been identified at Gabiro in north-east Rwanda. Operations re-started in August 2009 with a grant from the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, US State Department.

During December, **874 weapons** were destroyed, making a cumulative total of **29,930** during the project. **14 members of the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF)** were trained to IMAS EOD Level 1.

Somalia

MAG commenced its CWMD activities in the Puntland region of Somalia in May 2008 with funding from the US Department of State WRA. MAG **trained an EOD team** consisting of **7 Puntland Police officers** and further provided technical assistance and equipment for the team performing CWMD activities throughout Puntland. All training and field operations are carried out in close coordination with the national governing authority the Puntland Mine Action Centre (PMAC). With further funding from OWRA, activities in Puntland re-started in September 2009.

December 2009 was a busy period of work for the team with an extended deployment to Galcaio. The team also moved north west of Galcaio to re-assess high impact Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) Suspected Hazardous Areas close to the Ethiopian border.

Sudan

MAG has been implementing SALW activities in Sudan since 2005. Currently there is **one dedicated SALW team** operating out of MAG's base in Yei, Central Equatoria, but performs clearance activities in neighbouring Western Equatoria also. The team is funded by WRA. In Southern Sudan, MAG also has teams that conduct EOD spot tasks, or logistically remove CW along with other clearance activities. These teams are funded through UNOPS, Dutch Government, DFAIT and CIDA. In Northern Sudan there are two multi-task mine action teams, funded by DIFD and WRA that both conduct EOD spot tasks or logistically remove CW along with other clearance activities.

The teams usually go out for 2-3 weeks at a time fly camping in different areas before returning to base to rest and refuel. Sudan provides challenging terrain and difficult conditions to work in, particularly during the rainy season when many areas become impassable.

The following is a summary of the results achieved by the MAG Sudan programme in December 2009.

Summary Table	Number removed and destroyed
Spot tasks completed	34
MANPADS- Tubes	6
AT mines	2
AP mines	110
SAA	1,625
Other UXO	1,315
TOTAL	3,049
Direct beneficiaries	3,168

MAG would like to express its gratitude to the following current donors to our CWMD projects around the globe:

- Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
- Canadian International Development Agency
- DFID
- Royal Government of the Netherlands
- Swiss Government
- UNDP
- UNOPS (UN Office for Project Services)
- US Department of State, Political Military Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement